

TOWN GOVERNMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 3, 2012 meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM

Members in attendance were Boyd Jackson, Al Wallace, Jan Ablon, Holger Luther, George Anderson

Others in attendance were: Ginna Wilder, Laura Powers, George Hall

Discussed:

- George Hall had been invited to make an attempt at writing “An Act Establishing a Strong Town Administrator Form of Government for the Town of Topsfield”. At this meeting George presented his first attempt at providing that document.
- George informed us that there were more and more towns moving in the direction of a strong town administrator form of government.
 - He said that the reasons appeared to be
 1. More people were willing to get involved by not having to run for election.
 2. Having unqualified people running for particular critical positions is eliminated.
- We discussed the definition of a “department head” and what committees and groups would be considered “departments”.
- We discussed that the TA would appoint all administrators.
- We discussed that the BOS would appoint Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Town Accountant, Auditor and Town Council.
- We agreed that the discussion to appoint the Town Clerk and the Board of Assessors would be finalized at a subsequent meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM